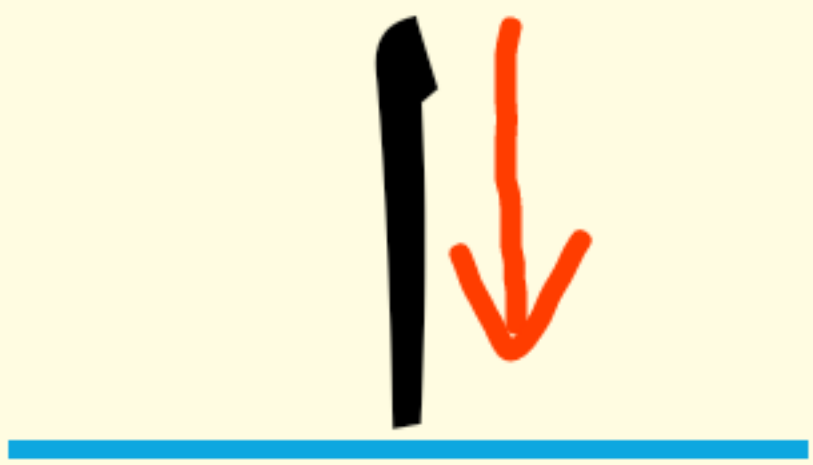
Lesson 1

There are 2 opinions on how many letters there are in the Arabic alphabet :

1. 28 letters
2. 29 letters

The opinion that mentions 29 is treating 2 letters as the same letter.
We will apply both opinions based on the topics we do in shaʿa Allah.

The first letter in the Arabic alphabet is the ALIF.



The Alif written like this is also called HAMZATU-L-WASL.

The Alif does not have any sound on it's own and in the Arabic language we do not have vowels written as letters but there are many different signs that were introduced for Non-Arabs for easier learning.

We will learn the short vowel signs today.

There are 3 short vowel signs/ sounds:

1. FATHAH which will be a small line above a letter ´ and it has the sound of 'A' like when we say 'A car'.

2. KASRAH - line underneath a letter ـ and it gives us the short sound 'I' like in the word 'sit'.

3. DAMMAH - a sign that looks like a small 9 above the letter and gives us the sound of 'U' like in the word 'put '

Alif (Hamzatu-l-wasl) with FATHAH:

أَ

The Alif will take the sound of the vowel it carries.

Alif (Hamzatu-l-wasl) with KASRAH:

إِ

i

Alif (Hamzatu-l-wasl) with DAMMAH:

إُ

u

*In Arabic we read from right to left.

أُ إِ أَ

u i a

a

ī

i

ِ

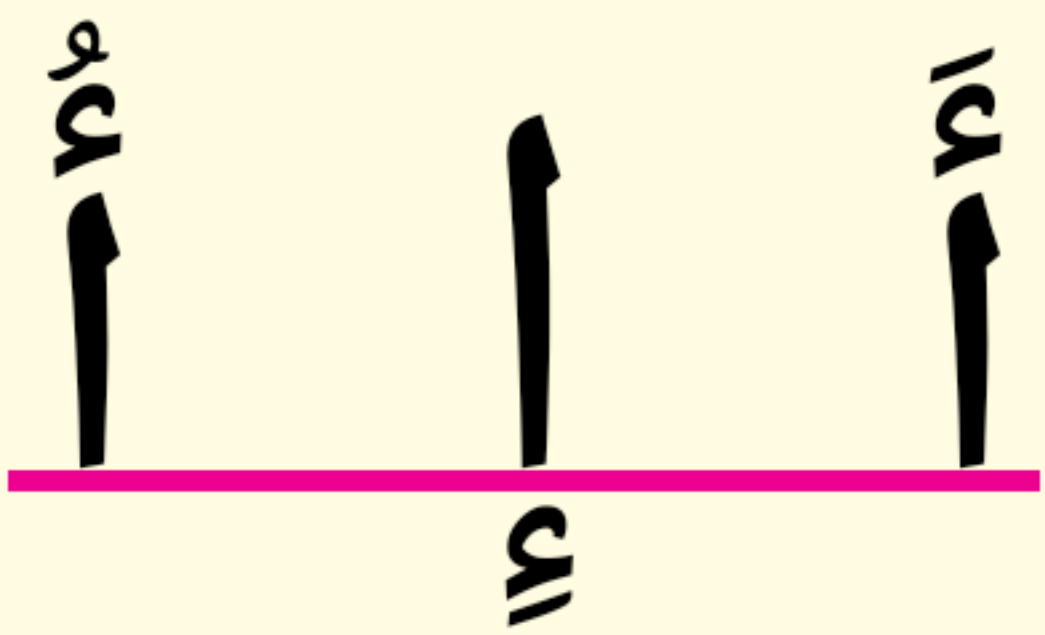
u

ُ

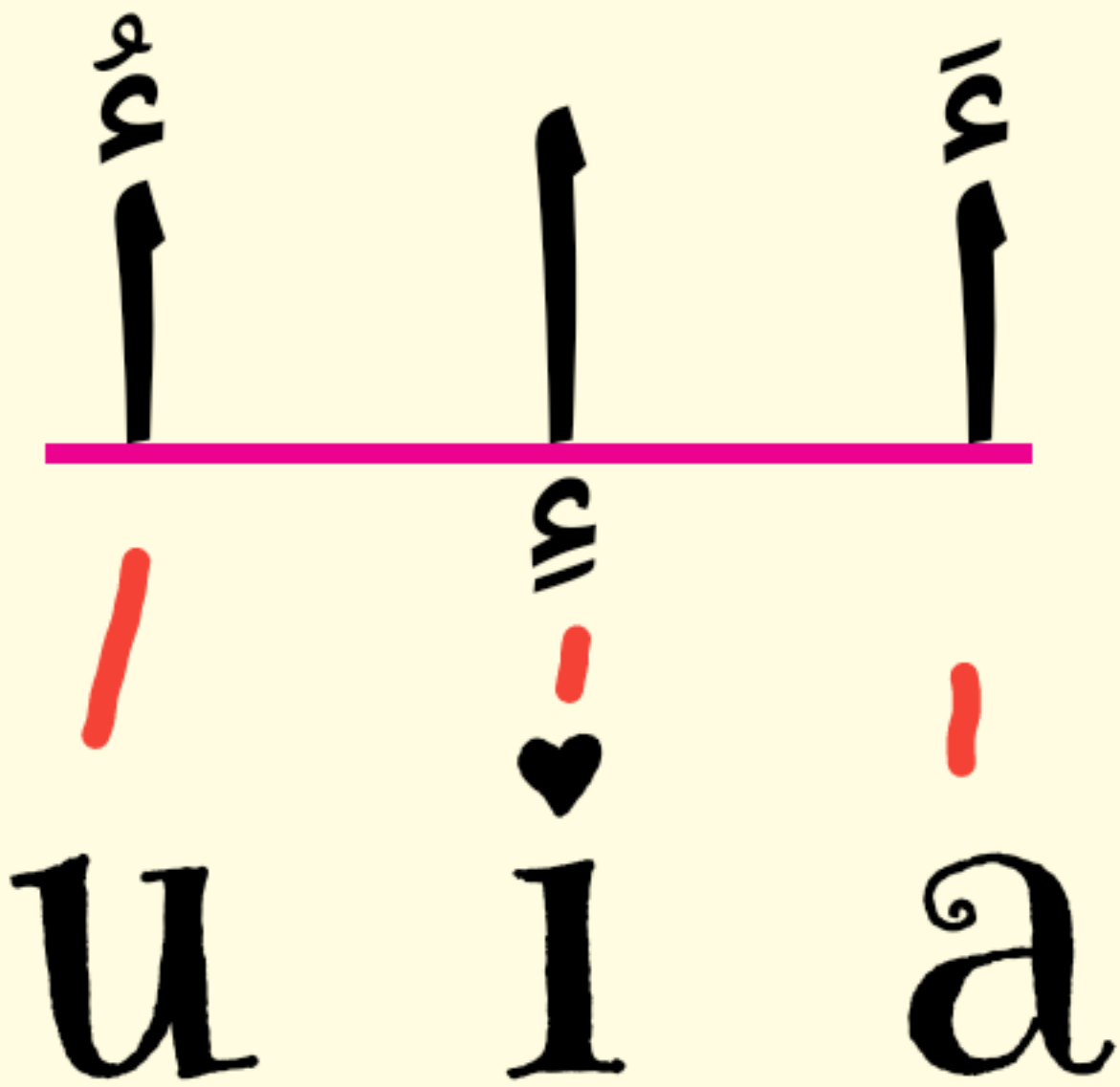
The opinion that there are 28 lettersin the Arabic alphabet is because the Alif (Hamzatu-l-wasl) is made equal to a letter called Hamzah or Hamzatu-l-Qat'.

ء

This Hamzah can comeon its own or it can take a seat on 3 letters, one of which is the Alif or Hamzatu-l-wasl. It can come above the Alif when it has a FATHAH (line above) and DAMMAH (small 9) and it comes underneath the Alif when it has a KASRAH (line underneath) :



This Hamzah also takes the sound of the sign it has on.



أَ a

إِ i

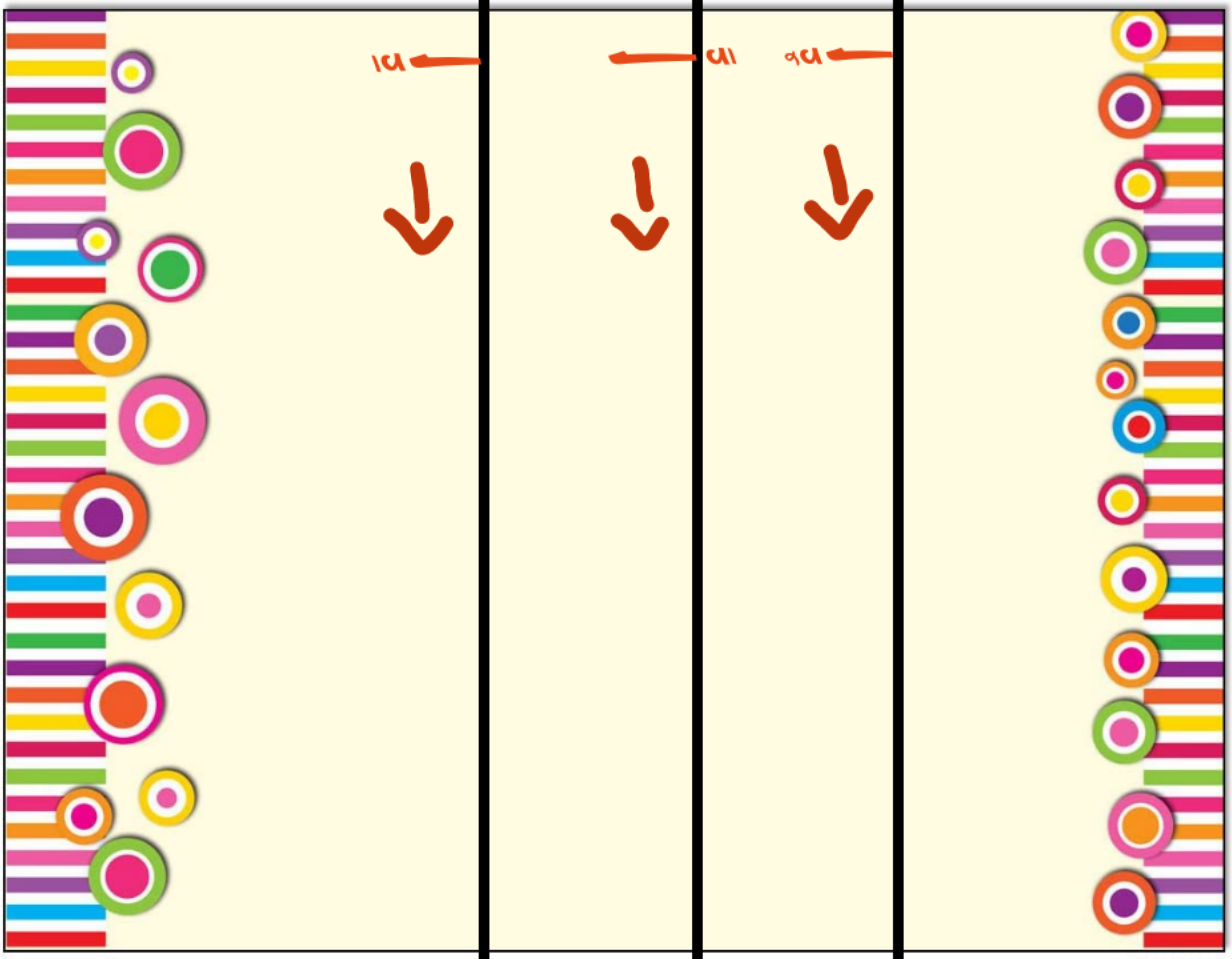
أُ u

Homework:

أَ ←

إِ ←

أُ ←


1a
2a
3a